

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION 500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766 PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

April 25, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair

Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

Supervisor Don Knabe

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley

Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT - SAN GABRIEL

CHILDREN'S CENTER GROUP HOMES, CHILDREN'S TEAM CENTER, TRANSITIONAL LIVING HOUSE #1, TRANSITIONAL LIVING HOUSE

**#2, AND TRANSITIONAL LIVING HOUSE #3** 

We have completed a review of Children's Team Center (CTC), Transitional Living House #1 (TLH1), Transitional Living House #2 (TLH2), and Transitional Living House #3 (TLH3) Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by the San Gabriel Children's Center, Inc. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

CTC Group Home is a twenty-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 7-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, CTC Group Home was providing services for seven Los Angeles County DCFS children, six Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health children, three San Bernardino County DCFS children, one Riverside County DCFS child, and one Orange County DCFS child. CTC Group Home is located in the Fifth District.

TLH1 is a six-bed facility which provides care for boys and girls ages 7-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. TLH2 and TLH3 Group Homes are six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 7-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, TLH1 Group Home was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children and one Los Angeles County Probation child. TLH2 Group Home was providing services for four Los Angeles County DCFS children, one Los Angeles County DCFS child. TLH3 Group Home was providing services for one Los Angeles County DCFS child, three Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

Children, and two San Bernadino County DCFS children. TLH1, TLH2 and TLH3 Group Homes are located in the Fifth District.

# Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews with two children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

# **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address areas where improvements are needed in two of the group homes. TLH1 Group Home needs to clean or replace carpet and repair or replace the large screen television in the living room. TLH2 Group Home needs to resurface and paint damaged exterior panels of the home.

Attached are detailed report of the review findings.

# **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children's Group Home Ombudsman within 20 business days from the date of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM: MP:CC:mn

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer

Donald Lomas, Executive Director, San Gabriel Children's Center Group Homes Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer

Public Information Office

Audit Committee

San Gabriel Children's Center CTC
1161 East Covina Blvd.

1161 East Covina Blvd. Covina, CA 91724 Phone: (626) 859-2089

License No.: 191593473
Rate Classification Level: 14

# I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### Comments:

The CTC Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is a large facility located in a residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible and appropriately dated.

# Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# **II. Program Services**

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was appropriate documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly reports for residents are current, comprehensive, and appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.

Both residents are receiving individual therapy and life skills training.

# Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment - Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### Comments:

Residents are attending school. Their records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

#### Recommendations

# IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. Residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. Residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. Residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

# Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for six case files

#### Comments:

Residents have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

# Recommendations

# **VI. Personal Rights**

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### Comments:

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their placement workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

# Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

## Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly

clothing allowance and residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum weekly allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

# **Recommendations**

# San Gabriel Children's Center TLH1 19605 E. Puente Blvd. Covina, CA 91724 Phone: 626-859-2089

License No.: 197801309
Rate Classification Level: 14

# I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### **Comments:**

TLH1 Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is a mid-sized facility located in a residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with other houses on the block. There were no observable safety hazards

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, in the living room the carpets are old, stained and have an odor. In addition, the large screen television in the living room has a very poor picture quality.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible and appropriately dated.

# Recommendations

- 1. San Gabriel Children's Center Group Homes management:
  - a. Clean or replace the living room carpet.
  - b. Repair or replace the large screen television in the living room.

# **II. Program Services**

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### Comments:

Residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was appropriate documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly reports for residents are current, comprehensive, and appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.

Residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

# Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### Comments:

Residents are attending school. Their records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feels that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress. Tutoring services are provided at this home.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

# Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. Residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. Residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. Residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

#### Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment - Review of relevant documents for five case files

# **Comments:**

Residents have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

# Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### Comments:

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their placement workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

#### Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

# **Recommendations**

# San Gabriel Children's Center TLH2 19832 Rambling Road Covina, CA 91724 Phone: (626) 859-2089

License No.: 197802232
Rate Classification Level: 14

# I. Facility and Environment

**Method of assessment – Observation** 

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### **Comments:**

The TLH2 Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is a mid-sized facility located in a residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards. However, the exterior of the home has water damage and the wood paneling has chipped paint.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible and appropriately dated.

#### Recommendation

1. San Gabriel Children's Center Group Homes management re-surface and paint damaged exterior panels of the home.

# **II. Program Services**

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### Comments:

Residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was appropriate documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly reports for residents are current, comprehensive, and appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.

Residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

# Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### Comments:

Residents are attending school. There are current Individualized Educational Plans for both residents who require Special Education services. Their records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. Residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

# Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. Residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. Residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. Residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

#### Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment - Review of relevant documents for three case files

# **Comments:**

Residents have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

# Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# **VI. Personal Rights**

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### **Comments:**

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their placement workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

# Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

# **Recommendations**

# San Gabriel Children's Center TLH3

126 W. Norgate Street Glendora, CA 91740 Phone: (626) 859-2089

License No.: 197802791
Rate Classification Level: 14

# I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### **Comments:**

The TLH3 Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is a mid-sized facility located in a residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible and appropriately dated.

# Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

## **II. Program Services**

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was appropriate documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly reports for residents are current, comprehensive, and appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.

Both residents are receiving individual therapy and life skills training.

# Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### Comments:

Residents are attending school. Their records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports. Residents receive assistance with their homework as needed.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

# Recommendations

# IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### **Comments:**

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. Residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes bcal community organizations for recreational and program resources. Residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. Residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

## Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment - Review of relevant documents for one case file

#### Comments:

The resident had a current court authorization for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the child is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

# **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations for this section.

# VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment - Resident interviews

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their placement workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

# Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

# VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

#### Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum weekly allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

# **Recommendations**